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comes a tree, with a stem from eight inches to a foot and a half in diameter, having lost its light green color, and assumed a common brown, suitable for tree trunks. The roots become large, and spread widely. The trunk, however, always shows the sutures of the original sections; though one could hardly believe, at first sight, that they were all once green, juicy, flat and spatulate, like the new sections. The tree thus formed is from about seven to nine feet high; but I have seen one or two as much as fifteen. A few of them will stand together; and when over-run by the pendent smilax of the country, the long-suckered rubus, and sheltering beneath it the crocuses of different hues, with the " wee, modest, crimson-tipped " daisy, and the singular arums, present a very pretty sight. But the whole tangle is a fearful place to get against—to get into it is next to impossible.

The flowers come out on the edges and flat surfaces (principally upon the edges) of the stem-sections, in spring; the ovary being nearly as large when the flower appears, as afterwards, when it becomes ripe fruit. The flower above the ovary is very nearly of the same size and appearance as that of O. Rafinesquii, but with the yellow, shades of orange and even pink now and then appear. The ovary and fruit are much larger; but as one can see the fruit for sale in New York (rather small specimens), I will not describe it, except to say that it is furnished with the troublesome bristles, in whorls or nodules, like the stems of O. Rafinesquii; and that for eating, it is a little cooling, but too full of seeds for comfort; very commonly eaten, by the poorer classes especially, and very cheap. The fruit is generally gathered by women and children, who use for the purpose a long pole with a sharpened nail, with which last they pierce the fruit and thus pull it off. It is shaken or rubbed around in a bag or basket to get off the bristles.

Before the flowers are open, they have inside a plentiful sweetish moisture, and are visited not only by ants, but by a peculiar insect which I cannot well describe, being no entomologist; but this insect I never failed to find in the imbricated, twisted perianth, *before it began to open;* after the least opening at the top, the bug was gone. Such I found to be the case with every flower I tried, without one exception. I tried, probably, some thousands; for I made it a business to do them by hundreds, morning after morning.

The number of flowers on an ordinary joint was about twenty; rather more than less. Now and then there would be many together with from ten to eighteen; but not infrequently I have seen over forty on a joint; the largest number I remember was fifty-two. One can thus imagine the quantity of fruit in a hedge seven feet high, with the stem-joints so close together that a hen could not get through. I. H. HALL.

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§ 215. DEAR MR. EDITOR :—Considering that your worthy CLUB bears the name of that venerable man and scrupulously conscientious botanist who disliked most of all hasty and inconsiderate publication of genera and species, may an old botanist advise some younger ones to make haste more slowly? In particular, the proper determination of low *Algae* and *Fungi* requires not only critical study of many forms with the best appliances, but also a good acquaintance with the literature of the subject at first hand.

It is not my vocation to look after Cryptogamic botany, and I am sincerely desirous to avoid giving offence. Yet I will venture a few remarks upon Mr. Wolle's papers on Fresh Water Algae.

"The late Dr. M. G. Thuret" was not a Doctor, and his name was Gustave Thuret: the M. stands for Monsieur or Mr.

When specimens sent, through a friend, to M. Thuret's surviving associate, Dr. Bornet, were determined by the latter, a reference to this might not be amiss; and such as were pronounced on such authority too poor for identification might well have been let alone for the present.

Gleocapsa Itzigsohnii being a MS. name communicated by Bornet, this might have been mentioned.

"*Vibrio Rugulo*" is a mistake for V. Rugul*a*; "*Chthonoblastus Vaucheria*," for *C. Vaucherii*. "*Pleurococcas minuatus*," we may suppose means Pleurococcus miniatus, with a mere misprint in the generic name, the specific name turned into something unmeaning. "*Chlorococcum humilicola*"—a dweller upon something humble!—stands for C. humicola, an inhabitant of the ground, and the genus is *Cystococcus*.

"*Polyedron*" is Polyedrium of Nægali.

The new species of "Conferva," with such characters as are given, and with no indication of what this genus is taken to contain, cannot be deemed valuable contributions to Phycology.

"Hassel" is a name which does service for Hassall.

"*Bulbotrichia Onokoensis*" is founded on the young thallus of a Lichen.

"*Chlorococcus rubrapunctus*, n. sp.," has the name of the species somewhat wonderfully made.

Lingbya: For a species we have "L. Cincinnati," from Colorado. Does this stand for *L. cincinnata*?

"*Scytonema badium*. . . . This plant has somewhat of an indefinite character, not unlike *Sc. truncicola*; sometimes it assumes the characters of a "*Tolypothrix*." It may well be likened to both, as it is *Tolypothrix truncicola* of Thuret. "*T. Bulanheimii*" is a lapsus for Bulnheimii, Rabenh.

"*Kalodictyon*" and "*Poterophora*" are new genera, supposed to be Algae (and the first probably is something of the Cladophora sort), but without proof of it, or fructification. They are, therefore, lumber.

The third part has Latin instead of English characters, upon which some comments might be made; but they might seem captious.

On p. 190, Mr. Austin's fine powers of discrimination, so extensively shown in the Mosses, are brought to bear again upon our common grass, *Danthonia spicata*, and *D. Faxoni* is made upon what the collectors and the specimens assure us is a mere form of the original species, maturing at about the same period.

A. GRAY.